

# PRESS RELEASE

## House Armed Services Committee Duncan Hunter, Chairman

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **OPENING REMARKS OF CHAIRMAN DUNCAN HUNTER** *Hearing on U.S. National Security Strategy*

Today, the committee will review the U.S. National Security Strategy, the blueprint for executing the first and most fundamental responsibility of the Federal Government—the defense of our Nation.

The Goldwater-Nichols Act of 1986 requires the President of the United States to produce a National Security Strategy and release it as a public document. The current National Security Strategy, delivered one year to the month after the terrorist attacks of September 11, reflects that day's impact on the United States and the international security environment.

The new strategy makes a clear break from the realities of the Cold War superpower standoff. The United States, the strategy observes, is unlikely to face a true peer competitor in the near future.

Instead, the 2002 strategy recognizes that our greatest challenges are likely to come from failed states and shadowy terrorist networks that seek to use weapons of mass destruction to affect large-scale casualties. The nexus between these actors and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction represents a grave danger to the United States itself.

To fight this imminent threat, the National Security Strategy aims to build a balance of power that favors freedom and, ultimately, a larger community of democracies with common values.

This goal requires the United States to counter terror and tyranny away from America's shores. It also calls on the reliance of strong coalitions of the willing with other countries dedicated to the proliferation of liberty, not destruction.

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